

**Unit 6 The Promise of Heaven**

**Camp Venture Counselor's Guide**

**Letters About Weakness**

**Aim: To know God's strength is shown in our weakness  
as explained in the letters in the Bible.**

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 1

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, & THE WAY

**At the Campfire**

Worship the Spirit Who Shows Us  
Camp Critter: Kitten

**Tent Time**

New Testament Letters: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18  
GOT TIME? Letter: Jude 1:24-25  
Christ Connection: Isaiah 64:8

**Bible Memory Verse**

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."  
Psalm 119:105 (NIV)  
The Books of the New Testament

**CAMPING SUPPLY CHECKLIST**

- ☐ Set out mats or sit-upons in a semicircle, Counselor's camp chair
- ☐ Camp Venture Counselor's Guide on a clipboard and a Counselor's Bible
- ☐ Camp Games: Four pots, an equal amount of treasure in four different colors
- ☐ At the Campfire: Lesson 28 Worship Illustration or Storybook, Bible Memory Verse Song "New Testament Overture" and other related music
- ☐ Mailbag: Create a list of today's New Testament letter scripture references, fold it and place it in the Counselor's Bible. Put the Bible, Pen Pal Letter and an old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with jewels in any bag.
- ☐ Got Time Gear: Any favorite snack served from a clay pot, drinks, napkins, plates, cups, large sheets of sturdy paper, markers or crayons, clay, small candles, shiny craft supplies, ribbon, paper, glue, scissors, paperclips, "New Testament Overture" song, player and poster, flashlights, different versions of the Bible
- ☐ Today's New Testament Postcard with a stamp or sticker of a clay pot
- ☐ Daily Way Lesson 28

**ADD-A-VENTURE**

Use additional items to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: set up a camp tent, Camp Venture Photo Board or photo album including photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded with stones as a flameless campfire, etc.



# Camp Games

(30 Minutes)

Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we get to know each other better and have some fun with our Camp Games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to Jesus. (Pray.) Today, our New Testament letter teaches us about weakness. Each team gets a fragile, weak clay pot to collect your team treasure. Be careful and work together to collect all the treasure!

## **GAME: POTS OF TREASURE**

**PURPOSE:** Campers will race to collect treasure to place in their team's pot as they begin to discover that God is the treasure inside their lives.

**SUPPLIES:** Four pots (plastic flower pots or buckets), an equal amount of treasures in four different colors (treasure can be candy, buttons, craft gems, paper cut into jewel shapes etc.)

**PREPARE:** Scatter equal amounts of treasure in each of the four colors around the play area.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Divide campers into four teams.
2. Assign a treasure color and give a pot to each team.
3. On your signal, campers race to pick up all of their assigned treasure colors and deposit them in their team's pot.
4. The goal is to be the first team to collect all the team's treasure in the pot.

**SAY>** Today we will read what the New Testament letters say about our weakness and God's strength. Just like our pots are filled with treasures, God's strength is like a wonderful treasure inside us. Let's read our letters and find out how God's strength helps us when we are weak.

**Options:** Small groups can play with two teams instead of four. Limited Space? All campers are on the same team and must pick up all the treasures on the floor. Play the game twice; timing it each time. Challenge the campers to beat their time on the second round of play.

**\*Counselor Clues:** For added fun, be very generous with points (For example: 100,000 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place; 75,000 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place; 40,000 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place; 30,000 points for 4<sup>th</sup> place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.) Prizes for points can range from a round of applause to a grand prize for the team with the highest total points at the end of camp. The grand prize can be an ice cream party, pizza party, etc. Before closing on the last day, have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party. Always encourage good sportsmanship and cheering for each other.



# At the Campfire

(15 Minutes)

Today we worship the Holy Spirit who shows us that we are weak and God is strong. We can praise Him as the mighty one who helps the weak. God help us in everything. He even helps us to pray when we don't know what to say.

One way we can thank God for helping us is to give our offering. (Sing: "Here I Am To Worship" while collecting the offering.)

## Worship Elements:

Designate a special corner or area for worship.

Collect and lead prayer for an offering.

Perform Worship Illustration or read Storybook:

- Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 28

Say the Camper's Code together.

**Today's camp critter is a kitten.  
Newborn kittens are small and weak.  
They are today's camp critter because  
we are learning about some special  
letters found in the New Testament  
that teach us about our weakness and  
God's strength.**

## Camp Critter Song

I spied a KITTEN overhead.  
Here is what that KITTEN said,  
"Though we are weak—  
God can't be beat!"  
I spied a KITTEN,  
who followed the RACE HORSE,  
who followed the DOVE,  
who followed the LITTLE LAMB,  
who followed the SERPENT,  
who followed the MEERKAT,  
who followed the LOVEBIRD  
And the LOVEBIRD hollered,  
"Yippee-kigh-yay!"  
At Camp Venture today!"

## Camper's Code

I will love God with all my heart.  
I will love my neighbor as myself.  
I will be a light wherever I go.

## Praise Song Suggestions

Select songs containing that focus on God's strength and our weakness.

"Not By Might"

"Awesome God"

"Jesus Loves Me"

Songs 4 Worship Kids, Volume 1

## Bible Memory Verse Song

"New Testament Overture"

Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

The Books of the New Testament

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path!

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path!

Go to Matthew, to Mark, go to Luke and John.

Go to Acts and the letter to the Romans.

Go to First, go to Second Corinthians,  
to Galatians and Ephesians!

Philippians and Colossians,  
First and Second Thessalonians,  
First and Second Timothy,  
then Titus and Philemon!

Go to Hebrews and go to James.

Go to First, go to Second Peter.

Go to First, Second, Third John.

Go to Jude, then go to Revelation!

*(Repeat three times going faster each time.)*

*Sheet music and recordings available at  
[www.childrensministrywarehouse.net](http://www.childrensministrywarehouse.net)*



# Tent Time

(15 Minutes)

(Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.)

## **New Testament Letters**

**Welcome to Tent Time!** (Counselor holds up mailbag.) **Last time we found letters about focus in our mailbag. We learned that to keep our eyes on Jesus means to focus on who He is and what He wants us to do.**

**Today we have a mailbag with letters about weakness from the Bible. We'll learn how we can see God's power in our weakness. If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** (Hand out spare Bibles. Counselor opens mailbag and removes Bible, opens Bible and takes out list of today's New Testament letter scripture references: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18.)

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us?** (Camper prays aloud.) **Be seated.**

**Paul taught his friends in Corinth about his own weakness. Listen as I read what Paul said to the Corinthians about that.** (Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.)

**Earlier in that same letter, Paul explained why his weakness did not make him lose heart or be discouraged. Check it out.** (Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-9, 16-18.)



# Tent Time **continued**

(15 Minutes)

## **Mailbag**

(Print the Pen Pal letter on a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope.)

**Let's open our mailbag to see if our Pen Pal will give us a clue about what today's New Testament letter has to do with your life.** (Remove Pen Pal Letter from mailbag, open the envelope. Remove the letter and read.)

**Hey Pals,**

Have you ever asked God to heal you or take away a problem you were having? Sometimes God's answer to that prayer comes right away. Sometimes His answer comes along the way. And sometimes God does not answer that prayer until we get to heaven, where all our weaknesses and worries are gone forever!

That's how it was with Paul. In his letter, he told the Corinthians that he prayed three times for God to take away his weakness, but nothing happened. The Bible does not say what Paul's weakness was; he called it "a thorn in his flesh." He was not talking about a real thorn, but about a certain weakness. Sometimes parts of our bodies are weak through sickness or injury. Sometimes something in our bodies or minds has not worked well since we were born. What are some physical weaknesses that we ask God to take away? (Respond.) God is so powerful that He even uses our weaknesses in building His kingdom.

Paul was not discouraged about his unanswered prayer, because he knew that when we are weak, it is easier for others to know that only God is the one with the power. Paul said God put His light into our hearts. (Counselor opens mailbag and removes an old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with jewels.) **God's light is like this cross and our hearts are like this breakable clay pot.**

If we were perfectly strong like a fancy treasure chest with a lock, others might only notice the chest and the lock. But when an old clay pot holds an amazing treasure like this cross, what do you notice most of all? (Respond.) In the same way, others notice God's power in our weakness.

That reminds me, over 700 years before Paul compared each believer to a jar of clay with God's treasure inside, Isaiah explained who made us that way!

**Let's check it out.** (Read today's Christ Connection: Isaiah 64:8.)

A potter is an artist who molds and shapes clay into jars or pots. God has given each of you many different strengths and some weaknesses, too. No matter what your weakness is, the treasure in your heart is God's perfect light that points you and others to Jesus. Let others see that light and know that Jesus is the powerful one, not us!

**Believe and Be Light!**  
**Your Pen Pal**



# Tent Time **continued**

(15 Minutes)

## Share A Prayer

Let's thank God for sending us His Word, the Bible! We can pray for each other and all who live in this world for them to hear His Word, too.

(Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests.)

Father in heaven, thank you for sending us Your Word. You know our needs—the ones we just shared out loud and the ones that we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. (Pause of silence.) We can't wait to see the way that You will answer each one. Together, we close this prayer with the words Jesus taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## Final Five

(When only five minutes remain, begin this segment.)

### New Testament Postcard

As you leave today, you'll receive a New Testament Postcard. I'm giving you this stamp or sticker of a clay pot to remind you that even though we are weak, when we believe in Jesus, we have God's light inside of us! (Place stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard.) Add this to your postcard collection. On your postcard, write where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible. (You'll find the scriptures listed in the Daily Way.) Read these scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.

### Letter From Camp

Write a Letter from Camp to someone in your home to let them know what you did today. Write your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned. Or draw a picture about that. Sign it and take it home.

### Prayer Requests

How can I pray for you this week?

(As campers work on their Letters from Camp, write individual requests in your counselor's prayer notebook.)

### Camper Challenge

(Hand out Lesson 28 Daily Way.)

Complete your Daily Way at home and bring it back next time to win points here at Camp Venture!

### Bible Memory Verse Song

Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse song in the background as campers wait to be dismissed.



# Got Time?

(If time remains, choose from the connected activities in this segment.)

## **SNACK: POT FULL OF TREASURE**

**PURPOSE:** Campers will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

**SUPPLIES:** Any favorite snack served from a clay pot, drinks, napkins, plates, cups

**ASK>** Today we are learning that even though we are weak, God is strong. He is a source of strength inside all who believe in Him. Just like this clay pot has a special treasure inside for you to share and eat; God has put a special light inside our hearts so we can share the good news about Jesus with others.

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Camper prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is your favorite treasure?"**

## **GAME: WHICH ONE IS STRONGER?**

**PURPOSE:** To determine the stronger animal while discussing how God's strength helps them in their weakness.

**SUPPLIES:** Large sheets of sturdy paper, markers

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Choose a few campers to be the judges.
2. Divide the remaining campers into two teams.
3. Give a stack of paper and a marker to each team.
4. Each team member may have a turn as the team's writer or artist.
5. On your signal, each team secretly chooses a strong animal. The team's writer or artist writes the name or draws a picture of that animal on the paper.
6. Once finished, teams show their paper for the judges to see.
7. Judges decide which animal is stronger. The team with the stronger animal gets a point.
8. Display the animal names and pictures where all can see so teams remember which animals have been selected.
9. Teams choose a new artist or writer and play again as time allows choosing two new animals.

**ASK>** Sometimes we feel very strong like when we help a smaller sibling or win a team game. But sometimes we feel weak like when things are hard to understand or difficult to do. It's the same way when we talk to people about God. Sometimes it may be easy to share the good news about Jesus or to follow God, but other times we may not be sure about what to say or how to obey God. The good news is, God has all the strength we will ever need and more! When you are weak, God is strong! What is something God can do that you cannot? (Allow camper a chance to share his or her answer.) When you feel weak, you can pray and ask God to be strong for you!



# Got Time? continued...

## **CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—TREASURE POTS**

**PURPOSE:** For campers to make pots containing candle treasures to give as encouragement to those who are physically weak.

**SUPPLIES:** Clay, small candles (stick, votive or tea light), shiny craft supplies (craft jewels, buttons, sequins, glitter, etc.), ribbon, paper, markers or crayons, glue, scissors, paperclips

**PREPARE:** Choose who will receive the care package: people who are struggling with physical weakness, such as in a hospital or elder care facility. Write where campers can see to copy: **God's light shines in you!** and the following letter:

Dear Friend,

"For God...made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Your Friend,

Camper signs his or her first name

**ASK>** Today we learned what the New Testament letters say about weakness. When we are weak, what can we do? (Pray to God for strength. Remember that His light shines in us.)

Let's encourage others who may feel weak and remind them that God is their strength!

**SAY>** For the next few weeks we will care for others by making care packages that we can deliver or mail. Today, we will make and give away candles in clay pots to help others know God is their strength when they are weak. (Share information about care package recipient(s) with campers. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.)

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Form a pot shape out of a handful of clay.
2. Carve the sentence "**God's light shines in you**" into the pot using the tip of a paperclip.
3. Decorate the candle with shiny craft supplies and ribbon.
4. Press the candle into the pot to secure.
5. Make a card to go with your candle. Copy the Bible verse onto paper. Be sure to sign your name!
6. Allow the pots dry and harden.
7. Deliver the gifts!

### **\*Counselor Clues:**

- If possible, take some or all campers with you to deliver the care package to the recipient(s).
- Take pictures for the campers to share when delivering the package.
- Pre-write the message on card for younger campers to color.
- Large class? Divide campers into teams and allow each team to choose a recipient and create a team pot.

**\*Options:** Make your own clay: visit [www.childrensministrywarehouse.net](http://www.childrensministrywarehouse.net) for links to clay recipes. Substitute a special treasure the recipient needs or would appreciate inside the pot instead of the candle.



# Got Time? continued...

## **DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT**

### **WEAKNESS—JUDE 1:24-25**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn of a third letter about weakness from the New Testament.

**SUPPLIES:** Bible opened to Jude 1:24-25

**SAY>** Let's read Jude 1:24-25. (Counselor or camper volunteers to read Jude 1:24-25.) **Who has the power to keep us from falling and to present us to God? (Jesus.) What are we like when we are presented to God? (Faultless and full of joy.) Jude offered God praise with words like glory, majesty, power and authority. What words would you use to praise God? (Respond.)**

## **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

### **"New Testament Overture"**

*Sheet music and recordings available at [www.childrensministrywarehouse.net](http://www.childrensministrywarehouse.net)*

Psalm 119:105 (KJV) and the books of the New Testament sung to the tune of The William Tell Overture: Allegro Vivace

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path!

Go to Matthew, to Mark, go to Luke and John. Go to Acts and the letter to the Romans.  
Go to First, go to Second Corinthians, to Galatians and Ephesians!

Philippians and Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians,  
First and Second Timothy, then Titus and Philemon!

Go to Hebrews and go to James. Go to First, go to Second Peter.  
Go to First, Second, Third John. Go to Jude, then go to Revelation!

## **GAME: LIGHT MY PATH**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

**SUPPLIES:** "New Testament Overture" song, player and flashlights

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Campers choose partners.
2. Give each pair a flashlight. (Pairs may take turns if there are a limited number of flashlights available.)
3. As the Bible Memory Verse plays, one partner moves the flashlight beam across the floor as the other partner walks the path highlighted by the beam. Make sure the partner moves the beam slowly enough that the other camper can walk in it.

**ASK>** How did you know where your partner wanted you to go? (By following the lighted path.) Psalm 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." When we read God's Word in the Bible, it's like He is shining a light for us to see how to follow the right path—His path. The Bible helps us know God and how to follow Him.



# Got Time? continued...

## MORE BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

### **GAME: NEXT BOOK**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn the New Testament books in order.

**SUPPLIES:** "New Testament Overture" song, player, and poster

**SAY>** The Bible is made up of 66 different books. The New Testament has 27 books. Let's learn the books of the New Testament to help us find scripture verses quickly. How fast can you learn all the New Testament books in order?

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse one time. Have campers sing along as they learn the words.
2. Play the song again. This time stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
3. Campers call out the name of the book that comes next. They can refer to the poster if necessary.
4. Play again as time permits.
5. As campers learn the books, challenge them by taking away the poster and choosing one camper to respond each time you stop the song.

### **GAME: THE BIBLE IS HOT, HOT, HOT!**

**PURPOSE:** Campers learn the New Testament books in order.

**SUPPLIES:** "New Testament Overture" song, player and poster, Bible

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Seat campers in a circle.
2. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse as campers quickly pass the Bible around the circle.
3. Stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
4. The camper holding the Bible when the song stops is to open the Bible and find the last New Testament book sung in the song as quickly as possible.
5. Play again as time permits.
6. As campers learn the books, challenge them by timing the camper searching for the book. Encourage campers to cheer for each other and try and get a faster time each time they are selected.

**\*Counselor Clue:** For an added challenge and to protect the Bible during this game, use a hard cover Bible and tie it closed with a sturdy ribbon or enclose the Bible in a zipped cover or large zip top bag.



# Got Time? continued...

## MORE BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

### **DISCUSSION: ALL GOD'S WORD**

**PURPOSE:** For campers to recognize there are different versions of the Bible, but it is all God's truth.

**SUPPLIES:** Different versions of the Bible opened to Psalm 119:105 (NIV, KJV, NLT, NIRV, The Message, etc.)

**SAY** > Have you ever noticed that even when people speak the same language, they use different words to say the same thing? In the English language, "soda," "soft drink" and "pop" are all words used for the same type of fizzy drink. People who are from different areas use different words and so do people of different ages. In the same way, Bibles use different wordings to say the same thing. For example, in some Bibles Psalm 119:105 uses the words: "Thy word" while other versions use the words: "Your word." Both are true!

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Read a version of Psalm 119:105 aloud.
2. Read a different version of Psalm 119:105. Point out the differences.
3. Read a third version of Psalm 119:105. Point out the differences again.
4. Take a vote to determine the campers' favorite version.
5. Read and sing the Bible Memory Verse song according to the King James Version.

**\*Counselor Clue:** Compare Bible versions of other famous passages such as Psalm 23 and John 3:16.